

# Pop Quiz



1. What is the world population in 2010?  
a) 900 million   b) 2.5 billion   c) 6.9 billion   d) 7.5 billion   e) 12 billion
2. When will the population reach seven billion people?  
a) Fall 2011   b) Spring 2013   c) Summer 2014   d) Spring 2020   e) It has already surpassed 7 billion
3. By how many people does the world population grow each year?  
a) 11 million   b) 25 million   c) 45 million   d) 83 million   e) 160 million
4. If the world's population continues at its current rate of growth, approximately how long will it take to double?  
a) 9 years   b) 22 years   c) 58 years   d) 95 years   e) 148 years
5. According to the United Nations, at what number is the population expected to plateau?  
a) 5-7 billion   b) 9-11 billion   c) 13-15 billion   d) 20-25 billion   e) never
6. Which has NOT been a major cause of the population explosion?  
a) an increase in birth rates   b) modern preventive medicine   c) improved sanitation  
d) lower infant mortality   e) longer life expectancy
7. Which of the following is likely to be affected by a population of seven billion?  
a) amount of land for agriculture   b) amount of clean water   c) amount of energy used daily  
d) number of people who are unemployed   e) all of the above
8. Which country is the most populous in 2010?  
a) India   b) China   c) United States   d) Mexico   e) Russia
9. Which country is projected to be the most populous in 2050?  
a) India   b) China   c) United States   d) Mexico   e) Pakistan
10. Which region has the population with the highest fertility rate and the lowest life expectancy?  
a) Southeast Asia   b) Eastern Europe   c) Latin America   d) Sub-saharan Africa
11. What percentage of the world's population lives on less than \$2 per day?  
a) 26%   b) 15%   c) 48%   d) 39%
12. Which of the following correctly ranks the top five carbon dioxide emitting countries in the world?  
a) United States, China, Russia, India, Japan  
b) China, United States, Russia, India, Japan  
c) United States, China, India, Japan, United Kingdom

## Answers to Pop Quiz

### 1. What is the world population in 2010?

**c) 6.9 billion**

Note that world population figures are the best estimates demographers can make but are not precise counts.

### 2. When will the population reach seven billion people? a) Fall 2011

According to the United Nations, world population will reach this milestone in fall 2011.

### 3. By how many people does the world population grow each year? d) 83 million

To calculate how many people are added to the world population each year, multiply the total world population (6.9 billion) by the current growth rate (1.2% or 0.012), also called the natural rate of increase. In terms of population, we are adding another Germany each year.

### 4. If the world's population continues at its current rate of growth, approximately how long would it take to double? c) 58 years

The doubling time of any population can be calculated by dividing the "magic number" 70 by the annual percent of growth. The natural rate of increase is the growth rate excluding immigration or emigration. For the world, 70 divided by 1.2 equals approximately 58.

### 5. According to the United Nations, at what number is the population expected to plateau? b) 9-11 billion

There is a pretty large range, but the world population is expected to plateau somewhere between 9 and 11 billion people near the middle of this century. Of course, this depends on national policies and women's access to education and family planning.<sup>1</sup>

### 6. Which has NOT been a major cause of the population explosion? a) an increase in birth rates

A decrease in death rates, rather than an increase in birth rates, has been the main cause of rapid population growth over the past 200 years. Improved nutrition and sanitation, and advances in the areas of medicine and agriculture all contributed to this decline.

### 7. Which of the following is likely to be affected by a population of seven billion? d) All of the above

Our planet only has a finite amount of resources for humans to use, and as the population continues to grow, pressure is placed on all of these resources. Increases in population to seven billion will cause more job scarcity and unemployment, decreases in availability of water, and conversion of agricultural land into residential and urban areas.

### 8. Which country is the most populous in 2010? b) China

In 2010, the five most populous countries are China (1.3 billion); India (1.2 billion); U.S. (310 million); Indonesia (236 million); and Brazil (193 million).<sup>2</sup>

### 9. Which country is projected to be the most populous in 2050? a) India

In 2050, the five most populous countries are expected to be India (1.7 billion); China (1.4 billion); U.S. (423 million); Pakistan (335 million); and Nigeria (326 million).<sup>3</sup>

### 10. Which region has the highest fertility rate and the lowest life expectancy? d) Sub-Saharan Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa is the poorest part of the world. The total fertility rate is 5.3 children per woman. Because the infant mortality rate is high (1 in 12 babies don't survive) and access to healthcare is limited, life expectancy is only 51 years old.<sup>4</sup>

### 11. What percentage of the world's population lives on less than \$2 per day? c) 48%

While many countries have been developing steadily in recent years, there is still an enormous wealth gap between developed countries in the North and less developed countries in the South.

### 12. Which of the following correctly ranks the top five CO<sub>2</sub> emitting countries in the world? b) China, United States, Russia, India, Japan

While China recently became the largest total emitter of CO<sub>2</sub>, the U.S. still has the distinction of emitting the most CO<sub>2</sub> per capita.<sup>5</sup>

#### Sources:

1 United Nations, World Population Prospects. <http://esa.un.org/UNPP/>  
2,3,4 2010 World Population Data Sheet, Population Reference Bureau, [www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org)  
5 US Energy Information Administration, Country Energy Profiles. <http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/country/index.cfm>